

THE TIDE STILL RISING.

PRESIDENT AND CABINET GULFED BY OFFICE-SEEKERS.

COMPLAINT AT THE RULE WHICH TAKES AWAY TWO DAYS—HIDDEN OBSTACLES TO APPOINTMENT—REPRESENTATIVES BITTER AGAINST THE GRASPING SENATORS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, March 29.—Democratic senators and representatives, as well as office-seekers, have begun to exhibit symptoms of discontent on account of the rule which closes the doors of the Cabinet against them two days in each week, and thus robs them of half the time which they might otherwise devote to the business which monopolizes their minds and energies. Seven days in a week and twelve hours a day would not be too much time, in their opinion, for the President and members of his Cabinet to devote to the glorious work of planting democracy in far places at the public crib.

It is by no means certain that members of the Cabinet and even the President himself, will not be compelled to raise still stronger and higher barriers against the office-seeking tide which threatens to engulf them. The pressure to-day was terrible, and it was simply impossible for Secretary and Assistant Secretaries to devote their attention to what are generally regarded as the legitimate duties of the respective offices. There is complaint, too, on account of the meagreness of the results achieved during the four days of each week, in which office-seekers and their backers are given access to the several departments. Thus far, the office-seekers who have argued their own claims with the greatest energy and persistence have reaped little but disappointment for their pains; most of them have received only slight encouragement for the future, and many of them are becoming disheartened. They seem unable to realize or properly to appreciate the fact that with thirty or forty applicants for every office of any importance the making of appointments is a tedious as well as a complicated task.

Take this case for example: There are ten superintending inspectors of steam vessels in the United States, and for these ten places there are said to be at least 800 applicants, most of whom have come to Washington to urge their respective claims. Probably one in six of these candidates is qualified to perform the duties of the office and competent under the law, which requires that each supervising inspector shall be selected for his knowledge and skill, and practical experience in the use of steam for navigation, and shall be a competent vessel, and of all parts of the machinery employed in steaming. It is also highly probable that among the 250 applicants who are urged for appointment solely on partisan grounds there are some men whose political "pull" is as strong as that of any of the fifty candidates who may be regarded as competent; that among the former are men who have worked hard for the success of their party, and who are backed by the strongest of Senatorial and Congressional "influence." This case is by no means an exceptional one, and it indicates in some degree the difficulties which beset the President and his advisers on every hand.

Among the hidden obstacles which so often hinder and prevent the success of the office-seeker is one the existence of which he often suspects but can seldom or never discover. Democratic Senators and Representatives as well as other politicians of less distinction often, very often, make personal as well as written recommendations in behalf of the appointment of men, which recommendations, it is well understood by the appointing power, are to be taken in a Pickwickian sense only. It is by no means unusual that a favorable recommendation written by an unfavorable personal representation on the same day, without the knowledge of the person most deeply concerned; and not one time in a thousand does the latter ever discover the truth, because no record is made of the personal representations, while the written recommendations are jealously concealed from the public eye.

Democrats who want offices and who may be tempted to come to Washington on account of published reports to the effect that the crowd here is growing smaller would better remain at home. There are probably more office-seekers in Washington to-day than at any other time since Mr. Cleveland's inauguration, and the number is constantly increasing, as also is the number of written applications and petitions on file in the several Departments. It is understood that the number of personal and written applications for office by Democrats who live in the District of Columbia and cover the entire country, number about 2,000. The Democratic Representative from that district received about 17,000 votes at the last election. Of course the number of office-seekers from that district is much larger than the average from all the Congress districts of the State, but there are probably not less than 25,000 Virginia Democrats to-day who are anxious to hold office. There are about 2,100 postoffices in the State of Georgia, and about 10,000 Georgia Democrats are expected to become postmasters, while in Missouri the average number of candidates for each postoffice is eight. Mr. Dockery, who represents the 11th District of that State, has gone home with the intention of visiting every place in the district where there is a contest for the postoffice, and trying to "restore him to the postoffice." The prospect is that Mr. Dockery will be kept pretty busy while he remains in his district, even at that lively, if not profitable and successful, campaign.

Feeling of Democratic Congressmen against Senators of the same party is daily becoming more hostile and bitter. "The Democrats are exceedingly discontented," exclaimed a Democratic Representative from a southwestern State to-day. "To what do you refer?" asked a Tribune correspondent.

"I mean the conduct of Democratic Senators in regard to appointments. Not only do they try to get the Democrats to appoint men from their own States, as a rule, and monopolize most of the good appointments, but some of them seem determined to get places for all of their friends, as well as by blood. They pay no respect whatever to President Cleveland's well-known opposition to office-seekers, and they force him to make appointments which must be distasteful to him, for he has evinced so strong a desire to choose men for office with due regard to their superior fitness and the claims of the people as well as on account of their party loyalty."

"Can you imagine for a moment that he would have chosen Charles F. Smith for the position of Receiver of the United States for the District of Columbia? He is not a brother-in-law of the chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, or that Mr. Hildreth, who has been nominated for United States Marshal if he had not been a brother of the senior senator from Kentucky. Then there is the case of the United States District Attorney for Oklahoma, who 'pull' consisted in the fact that he is a relative by marriage of the son of Senator Vest, of the Finance Committee. I understand that a relative by blood of a Senator is a very good thing, but I do not hold that a man should be selected from public office because he happens to be related to a Senator. The President should be able to appoint officers on an office on that account and to the exclusion of Democrats whose claims are equal, if not superior, to his own."

ALBION EXCITED OVER CURRIE'S CASE.

Albion, N. Y., March 29.—The indignation meeting called for this evening to protest against the withdrawal of Dean F. Currie's appointment adjourned without taking any action. A dispute was imminent and ex-Internal Revenue Collector James A. Hannon weakened early this morning. He assured Mr. Currie that if the meeting was postponed that he would secure the appointment for him and that he had assurances that he could fulfill his promise. Many prominent Democrats of Orleans County were in Albion to-day. It is generally believed here that Hannon reported the situation at Washington and received orders to ally the trouble, if possible, and that Currie may be consular agent at Yarmouth yet.

THE VIRGINIA PATRONAGE BOARD'S WORK.

Washington, March 29.—The usual scramble among the applicants for the offices of United States Marshal, United States District Attorney and Internal Revenue Collector in the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia was in progress to-day.

THE PUBLICATION OF THE TREATY DISCUSSED.

Washington, March 29.—The Committee on Foreign Relations held a meeting this morning and discussed the resolution to make public the Russian extradition treaty. It is understood that, while being favorable to the purpose intended, the committee is not yet ready to agree upon a resolution, they were unable to agree upon a favorable report by reason of disagreements relative to the correspondence accompanying the con-

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vention. A well-known Senator said this morning that when published the Russian treaty would be found to be neither more nor less objectionable than several other treaties that have been in operation for some years. The criticism, that has been heard is due, he says, to a conception of the effect of the instrument based upon garbled extracts that appeared in a surreptitious publication when the treaty was first sent to the Senate, and when the objections now made, if made then, would have been timely and well founded.

HERMAN STUMP NOMINATED.

HIS NAME SENT TO THE SENATE FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF IMMIGRATION.

Washington, March 29.—The President sent to the Senate to-day the following nominations: Herman Stump, of Maryland, to be Superintendent of Immigration, vice William D. Owen, resigned. William P. Thompson, of Maine, to be Collector of Customs for the District of Maine.

Herman Stump, of Maryland, appointed to be Commissioner of Immigration, lives at Bel Air, and was born in 1837. In 1856 he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law in his native town, pursuing that profession to the present time. Mr. Stump was elected to the State Senate in 1878, and was president of that body two years later. He presided over the Democratic State Convention of 1879 which nominated William T. Hamilton for Governor. The new Commissioner served as a Representative in Congress from the 11th Maryland District in the List Congress, and in 1885, but was not a candidate for reelection. He was chairman of the House Committee on Immigration last Congress, and took an active interest in the immigration problem.

THE NEW-YORK MAY BE IN THE PARADE.

SECRETARY HERBERT ANXIOUS TO HAVE HER IN LINE, THOUGH UNFINISHED.

Washington, March 29.—Secretary Herbert is anxious that every effort be made to have the cruiser New York take part in the Naval review on April 27, and has requested the Cramps to push work on her in order that she may do so. It is not expected to have the vessel in condition on April 27, but the Government by that time, but all concerned are anxious to have her participate, and from reports of her preliminary trial officers see nothing to prevent her from participating. Her machinery is all right, and she needs only her turkeys. These, officers say, can be made of wood and painted so as to answer every purpose. The addition of a vessel like the New York to the United States squadron is considered very desirable.

Philadelphia, March 29.—There is every probability that the cruiser New York will take part in the Naval review on April 27